



Election Rules

1. POSITIONS

The Following Positions will be open for election in the second semester of each academic year:

- President (all campuses)
- Sport President (all campuses)
- Vice President Campaigns and Communications (all campuses)
- Vice President Academic and Student Affairs (one for each campus)

In the case of overall positions, all students at Ulster University will be eligible to stand, with exception to the position of Sport President, which will only be open to members of the Sports Union.

In the case the Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs, students may only run for positions on their campus of current or most recent study.

2. VOTING

Students at Ulster University will be eligible to vote for the: President, Vice President Campaigns and Communications, Vice President Academic and Student Affairs (on their campus of study) and Sport President were they hold Sports Union membership.

Students can vote by going directly to the voting website (www.uusuvote.com) or through visiting the portal (UUSU will provide a link at the top of the page).

3. THE RETURNING OFFICER

The Returning Officer will be decided by Student Council or in their absence the Student Executive Committee. S/he must not be bias to one candidate over another. Deputy Returning Officers are selected by the Returning Officer to act as a point of contact and to assist in carrying out the duties of the Returning Officer, however, the Returning Officer's decision is final.

4. ELECTION MATERIALS

- i. Candidates will be allocated a set amount of posters and manifestos. These are all printed on the same shade of yellow paper in black by UUSU.
- ii. Printing amounts will be subject to change and all printing amounts will be confirmed with candidates at their respective candidate's meetings.

- iii. Additional material may include handmade posters and banners; no additional digital printed material may be produced (excluding t-shirts). Digitally printed t-shirts will be allowed.
- iv. This material will be subject to approval of the Returning Officer and must not exceed a market value of £100 for an overall position and £60 for a campus position. In the case where a complaint is raised or the Returning Officer is investigating, receipts may be needed to prove the cost price of the additional materials. Were a candidate has received these additional materials for free, in an investigation, they will be cost as market price. If a candidate has gone over the additional materials limit, the items may be confiscated until after the election.
- v. Logos of companies/businesses/brands/organisations are not permitted on elections material. If these are submitted they will be removed before printing.

5. CAMPAIGNING

- i. Candidates may not start campaigning until after the candidates meeting. Candidates are allowed to approach Clubs and Societies to verbally request their support from the close of nominations.
- ii. Candidates will be responsible for the actions of their campaign team and anyone acting on their behalf. Where candidates dispute if a person is in their team or not, the decision will rest with the Returning Officer and this will be final.
- iii. Incumbent Sabbatical Officers running again can carry out their duties as normal, but should request leave for the periods they are campaigning. Officers must not use UUSU resources for election purposes.

6. CAMPAIGNING - MEDIA

- i. Candidates may use online media how they see fit, but may not advertise their candidacy on Students' Union pages on social networking sites. Candidates should not mention or imply any other candidate in media that would be considered negative. Emailing, phone calling and texting will be allowed to inform students of their candidacy and of the election.
- ii. An example of negative campaigning could be: 'Candidate X is a complete idiot who cannot be trusted' and is not acceptable. 'Candidate X has no experience of this role and his/her policies are unworkable for our Union' is acceptable.
- iii. Societies and Sports Clubs may endorse candidates for election so long as it has been agreed by the relevant Committee. Evidence of this support may be required, in the form of minutes from Committee meetings.
- iv. Promotion of candidates can only take place in the Student Union Club Bars with the permission of the relevant site bar committee. Questions with regards to this should be referred to the relevant campus Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs. In cases of the campus Vice-President is running in the election, the matter should be delegated to another member of the Bar Committee (who is not a candidate) to avoid conflicts of interest.
- v. The Returning Officer will decide each year where the designated areas for displaying material will be on and off each campus.
- vi. Candidates will not be permitted to book University owned backboards or tables, where possible the Returning Officer will arrange access to these. Also, locked Students' Union noticeboards will be allocated at the Returning Officer's discretion and should not be accessed by candidates without prior permission.
- vii. Candidates must not remove, move, deface or damage another candidate's material. If a genuine reason exists as to why material may need to be removed, candidates and their teams are advised to contact the Returning Officer or his/her nominee.

7. POLLING

- i. The Returning Officer shall decide which areas shall be UUSU operated Information Stations. At each station there will be information to students about the election and the opportunity for them to vote through computers. These will include University owned libraries, labs and other areas where the University may provide computers. Candidates and their teams may not campaign in these areas. The Returning Officer will specify these areas on each campus and circulate to candidates in advance.
- ii. Candidates are able to provide voters with a platform to vote as determined by the Returning Officer. This will be limited to specific areas within each campus. It is strictly prohibited that for a candidate to use electronic devices to encourage voting outside these areas. Examples of electronic devices include, but are not limited to, smart phones, laptops, tablet computer.
- iii. Student Council or in their absence the Student Executive will decide on the method of voting and the dates of the election, bearing in mind that polling must be open for at least SEVEN hours on a "University day"

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

All candidates will be bound by these rules and the following Code of Conduct for elections.